



HIKING – FOREST SERVICE – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine

Updated: February, 2003

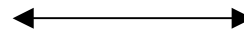
Colorado Trail - Continental Divide to Molas Pass

Length: 8.9 miles (14.2 km.)

Use: Heavy

Recommended Season

Spring Summer Fall Winter



Difficulty: Most difficult

USGS Map (s): Storm King

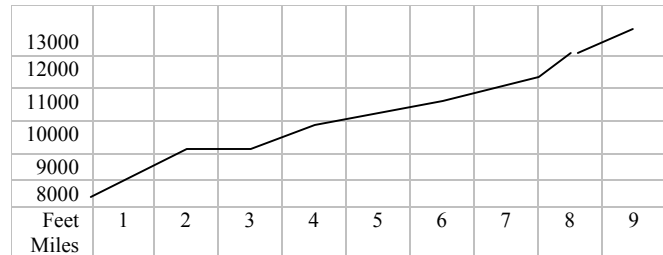
Starting Elevation: 8,300'

Elk Park (Animas River)

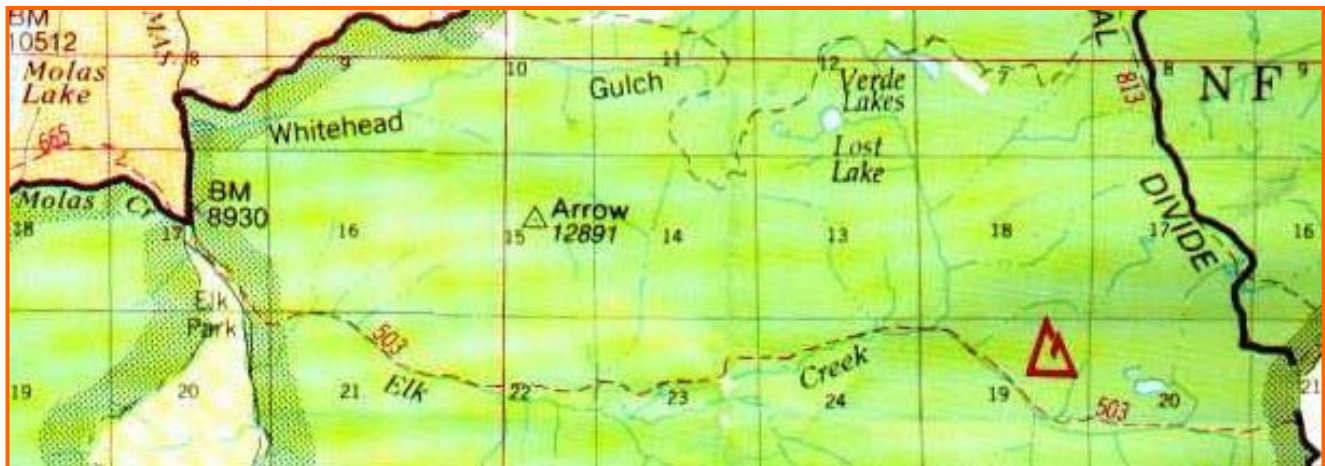
Ending Elevation: 12,800'

Continental Divide Trail

Recommended Season: Summer/Fall



Access: #1 Via Molas Trail from U.S. Hwy. 550, 42 miles north of Durango, off the top of Molas Pass toward Silverton. Turn east (R) at Molas Lake. Hike 5 miles down the Molas Trail to Elk Park.



Access #2: By Narrow Gauge Railroad, to "Elk Park."

Attractions & Considerations : One of the biggest drawing points of this trail is the unique opportunity to combine a wilderness trip with a ride on a steam locomotive. This same attraction can also affect other aspects of your wilderness experience, by decreasing the overall solitude with increased visitation. Elk Creek drains the northern portion of the Grenadier Range, which includes Arrow, Vestal, and the Trinity Peaks; a mecca for mountaineers. These features, along with access to the Continental Divide Trail, make Elk Creek one of the most heavily used trails in the entire Weminuche Wilderness. Remember to filter water and practice low-impact camping.

Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map
Forest Service Maps and other publications available at the Public Lands Center in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango off of Highway 160 or by calling 970-247-4874. www.sjma.org



Fishing Considerations:

Molas and Little Molas Lake offer stocked rainbow and brook trout, with a few good fish in the 12-inch range. Eldorado Lake is rated fair for rainbow.



Weminuche Wilderness Regulations: Group size is limited to 15 people. A combination of people and livestock must not exceed 25. All livestock feed must be certified weed free. Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of any water source unless the campsite is designated or posted. Do not leave campfires unattended. Outfitters and guides who receive any form of compensation must obtain a special-use permit to operate on public land. Dogs must be leashed or under voice control at all

times and must not disturb people or wildlife. Shortcutting switchbacks on trails is prohibited. Disposal of human waste and gray water within 100 feet of any water source is prohibited. Trash must be packed out and properly disposed of. Cutting or damaging live trees is prohibited. **Please check trailhead signs or Forest Service Offices for site-specific camping, campfires, and livestock regulations.**